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VILLAGE OF BETHANY AND DEAD SEA.*

Garden of Gethsemane—Tomb of Virgin Mary—Grottoes on Mount of Olives—View of the City—Extent and Boundaries—View of Bethany and Dead Sea.

IN proceeding from Jerusalem towards Bethany, the traveller skirts the mount of Olives; or, if he wishes to enjoy the magnificent view which it presents, both of the city and of the extensive tract watered by the Jordan, he ascends its heights, and at the same time inspects the remains of sacred architecture still to be seen on its summit. As he passes from the eastern gate, the Garden of Gethsemane meets his eyes, as well as the tomb which bears the name of the Blessed Virgin. This has a building over it with a pretty front, although the Grecian ornaments sculptured in marble are not in harmony with the pointed arch at the entrance. It is approached by a paved court, now a raised way, leading from the Mount of Olives over the Brook Kedron. The descent into it is formed by a handsome flight of steps composed of marble, being about fifty in number and of a noble breadth. About midway down are two arched recesses in the sides, said to contain the ashes of St. Anne, the mother of Mary, and of Joseph her husband. Reaching the bottom of the stairs, the visiter is shown the tomb of the holy Virgin herself, which is in the form of a simple bench coated with marble. Here the Greeks and Arme-

* We are indebted for this article as well as the annexed engraving to the twenty-seventh No. of Harper's Family Library.—"Palestine, or the Holy Land. From the earliest period to the present time. By the Rev. Michael Russell, LL.D. With a map and nine engravings." 1 vol. 18mo.

nians say mass by turns, and near it there is an humble altar for the Syrian Christians; while opposite to it is one for the Copts, consisting of earth, and entirely destitute of lamps, pictures, covering, and every other species of ornament. Chateaubriand tells us that the Turks had a portion of this grotto: Buckingham asserts that they have no right to enter it, nor could he "learn from the keepers of the place that they ever had;" whereas the author of the Anonymous Journal, from which we have already quoted, states distinctly that "there is a place reserved for the Mussulmans to pray, which at the Virgin's Tomb one would not expect to be much in request." So much for the clashing of authorities on the part of writers who could have no wish to deceive!

There are various other grottoes on the acclivity of the hill, meant to keep alive the remembrance of certain occurrences which are either mentioned in the gospel, or have been transmitted to the present age by oral tradition. Among these is one which is supposed to be the scene of the agony and the bloody sweat; a second, that marks the place where St. Peter and the two sons of Zebedee fell asleep when their Master retired to pray; and a third, indicating the spot whereon Judas betrayed the Son of Man with a kiss. Here also is pointed out the rock from which our Saviour predicted the sack of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple,—that dreadful visitation, of which the traces are still most visible both within and around the walls. The curious pilgrim is further edified by the sight of a cavern where the apostles were taught the Lord's Prayer; and of another where the same individuals at a later period met together to compose their Creed. On the principal top of the Mount of Olives,—for the elevated ground presents three separate summits,—are a mosque and the remains of a church. The former is distinguished by a lofty minaret which commands an extensive prospect; but the latter is esteemed more remarkable, as containing the piece of rock imprinted with the mark of our Saviour's foot while in the act of ascension.

But the view of the venerable metropolis itself, which stretches out its lanes and sacred enclosures under the eye of the traveller, is still more interesting than the reca-

pitulation of ambiguous relics. It occupies an irregular square of about two miles and a half in circumference. Eusebius gave a measurement of twenty-seven stadia, amounting to nearly a mile more than its present dimensions; a difference which can easily be explained, by adverting to the alterations made on the line of fortifications by the Saracens and Turks, especially on the north-west and western extremities of the town. Its shortest apparent side is that which faces the east, and in this is the supposed gate of the ancient Temple, shut up by the Mussulmans from a superstitious motive, and the small projecting stone on which their prophet is to sit when he shall judge the world assembled in the vale below. The southern side is exceedingly irregular, taking quite a zigzag direction; the south-western entrance being terminated by a mosque built over the supposed sepulchre of David, on the elevation of Mount Zion. The form and exact direction of the western and northern walls are not distinctly seen from the position now assumed; but every part of them appears to be a modern work, and executed at the same time. They are flanked at certain distances by square towers, and have battlements all along their summits, with loopholes for arrows or musketry close to the top. Their height is about fifty feet, but they are not surrounded by a ditch. The northern wall runs over ground which declines slightly outward; the eastern wall passes straight along the brow of Mount Moriah, with the deep valley of Jehoshaphat below; the southern wall crosses Mount Zion, with the vale of Hinnom at its feet; and the western wall is carried over a more uniform level, near the summit of the bare hills which terminate at the Jaffa gate.

Turning towards the east, the traveller sees at the foot of the hill the little village of Bethany, so often mentioned in the history of our Lord and of his personal followers; and at a greater distance, a little more on the left, he beholds the magnificent scenery of the Jordan and the Dead Sea.

There are two roads from Jerusalem to Bethany; the one passing over the Mount of Olives; the other, the shorter and easier, winding round the eastern side of it.

This village is now both small and poor, the cultivation of the soil around it being very much neglected by the indolent Arabs into whose hands it has fallen. Here are shown the ruins of a house, said to have belonged to Lazarus whom our Saviour raised from the dead; and, in the immediate neighborhood, the faithful pilgrim is invited to devotion in a grotto, which is represented as the actual tomb wherein the miracle was performed. The dwellings of Simon the Leper, of Mary Magdalene, and of Martha are pointed out by the Mussulmans, who traffic on the credulity of ignorant Christians. Nay, they undertake to identify the spot where the barren fig-tree withered under the curse, and the place where Judas put an end to his life, oppressed by a more dreadful malediction.

THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE UNDER DIFFICULTIES;

ILLUSTRATED BY ANECDOTES.

Literary pursuits of Sailors. Dampier; Davis; Falconer; Columbus; Cook.

There are many cases on record of individuals who, even with scarcely any other education than what they contrived to give themselves while serving in subordinate and laborious situations in the camp or on shipboard, have attained to great familiarity with books, and sometimes risen to considerable literary or scientific distinction. The celebrated English navigator, DAMPIER, although he had been some time at school before he left his native country, yet went to sea at so early an age that, considering he for a long time led a vagabond and lawless life, he must have very soon forgotten every thing he had been taught, if he had not, in the midst of all his wild adventures, taken great pains both to retain and to extend his knowledge. That he must have done so is evident from the accounts of his different voyages which he afterwards published. We have few works of the kind more vigorously or graphically written than these volumes; and they contain abundant evidences of a scientific and philosophical knowledge of no ordinary extent and exactness. Along with Dampier's, we may mention an older name, that of JOHN DAVIS, the discoverer of the well known Strait leading into Baffin's

Bay. Davis also went to sea when quite a boy, and must have acquired all his knowledge both of science and of the art of composition, while engaged among the duties of his profession. Yet we not only have from his pen accounts of several of his voyages, but also a treatise on the general hydrography of the earth. He was the inventor, besides, of a quadrant for taking the sun's altitude at sea.

FALCONER, the author of "*The Shipwreck*," as is generally known, spent his life, from childhood, at sea. He was probably born in one of the small towns in the county of Fife, which border the Frith of Forth; but nothing is very certainly ascertained either as to his native place or his parentage. Nor has any account been given of how he acquired the elements of education, with the exception of a report that he found an instructor in a person of the name of Campbell, a man of some literary taste and acquirements, who happened to be purser in one of the vessels in which young Falconer sailed. However this may be, Falconer appeared as an author at a very early age, having been only, it is said, in his twenty-first year when he gave to the world his first production, a poem on the death of Frederick, Prince of Wales. He was ten or twelve years older when he published his "*Shipwreck*," which is said to be founded in a great measure on the personal adventures of the author. Falconer did not permit the success of his poetical efforts to withdraw him from his profession, in which, having now transferred himself from the merchant service to the navy, he continued to rise steadily till he was appointed purser of a man-of-war. Some time after attaining this promotion, he published the other work by which he is chiefly known, his "*Universal Marine Dictionary*," which was very favorably received, and is still a standard work. He had previously to this written several other poetical pieces on temporary subjects, which have long been forgotten. Shortly after the publication of his dictionary, he sailed for Bengal as purser of the frigate *Aurora*. This vessel, however, was never heard of after she passed the Cape of Good Hope, having in all probability foundered at sea.

COLUMBUS himself, one of the greatest men that ever

lived, if it be grand ideas grandly realized that constitute greatness, while leading the life of a seaman, not only pursued assiduously the studies more particularly relating to his profession, rendering himself the most accomplished geographer and astronomer of his time, but kept up that acquaintance which he had begun at school with the different branches of elegant literature. We are told that he was even wont to amuse himself by the composition of Latin verses. It was at sea, too, that Cook acquired for himself those high scientific, and we may even add literary accomplishments, of which he showed himself to be possessed. The parents of this celebrated navigator were poor peasants, and all the school education he ever had was a little reading, writing, and arithmetic, for which he was indebted to the liberality of a gentleman in the neighborhood. He was apprenticed, at the age of thirteen, to a shopkeeper in the small town of Snaith, near Newcastle; and it was while in this situation that he was first seized with a passion for the sea. After some time, he prevailed upon his master to give up his indentures, and entered as one of the crew of a coasting vessel engaged in the coal trade. He continued in this service till he had reached his twenty-seventh year, when he exchanged it for that of the navy, in which he soon distinguished himself so greatly that he was three or four years after appointed master of the *Mercury*, which belonged to a squadron then proceeding to attack Quebec. Here he first showed the proficiency he had already made in the scientific part of his profession, by an admirable chart which he constructed and published of the River St. Lawrence. He felt, however, the disadvantages of his ignorance of mathematics; and, while still assisting in the hostile operations carrying on against the French on the coast of North America, he applied himself to the study of Euclid's *Elements*, which he soon mastered, and then began that of astronomy. A year or two after this, while again stationed in the same quarter, he communicated to the Royal Society an account of a solar eclipse which took place on the 5th of August, 1766; deducing from it, with great exactness and skill, the longitude of the place of observation; and his paper

was printed in the Philosophical Transactions. He had now completely established his reputation as an able and scientific seaman; and it having been determined by Government, at the request of the Royal Society, to send out qualified persons to the South Sea to observe the approaching transit of the planet Venus over the sun's disc—a phenomenon which promised several interesting results to astronomy,—Cook was appointed to the command of the Endeavor, the vessel fitted out for that purpose. He conducted this expedition, which, in addition to the accomplishment of its principal purpose, was productive of a large accession of important geographical discoveries, with the most consummate skill and ability; and was, the year after he returned home, appointed to the command of a second vessel destined for the same regions, but having in view more particularly the determination of the question as to the existence of a southern polar continent. He was nearly three years absent upon this voyage; but so admirable were the methods he adopted for preserving the health of his seamen, that he reached home with the loss of only one man from his whole crew. Having addressed a paper to the Royal Society upon this subject, he was not only chosen a member of that learned body, but was farther rewarded by having the Copley gold medal voted to him for his experiments. Of this second voyage he drew up the account himself, and it has been universally esteemed a model in that species of writing.

SKETCHES OF AMERICAN CHARACTER.

PATRICK HENRY.

(Concluded from page 381.)

In 1765, he was elected member of the house of burgesses, with express reference to an opposition to the British stamp-act. After having waited in vain for some step to be taken by another, and when the session was within three days of its expected close, he introduced his celebrated resolutions on the stamp-act. After his death, there was found among his papers one sealed, and thus endorsed:—"Enclosed are the resolutions of the Virginia assembly, in 1765, concerning the stamp-act,

Let my executors open this paper."—Within was found a copy of the resolutions in his hand-writing. On the back of the paper containing the resolutions, is the following endorsement, also in his hand-writing:—"The within resolutions passed the house of burgesses in May, 1765. They formed the first opposition to the stamp-act, and the scheme of taxing America by the British parliament. All the colonies, either through fear, or want of opportunity to form an opposition, or from influence of some kind or other, had remained silent. I had been for the first time elected a burgess a few days before, was young, inexperienced, unacquainted with the forms of the house, and the members that composed it. Finding the men of weight averse to opposition, and the commencement of the tax at hand, and that no person was likely to step forth, I determined to venture, and alone, unadvised, and unassisted, on a blank leaf of an old law book, wrote the within. Upon offering them to the house, violent debates ensued. Many threats were uttered, and much abuse cast on me, by the party for submission. After a long and warm contest, the resolutions passed by a very small majority, perhaps of one or two only. The alarm spread throughout America with astonishing quickness, and the ministerial party were overwhelmed. The great point of resistance to British taxation was universally established in the colonies. This brought on the war, which finally separated the two countries, and gave independence to ours. Whether this will prove a blessing or a curse, will depend upon the use our people make of the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed on us. If they are wise, they will be great and happy. If they are of a contrary character, they will be miserable. Righteousness alone can exalt them as a nation. Reader, whoever thou art, remember this; and in thy sphere, practise virtue thyself, and encourage it in others. P. HENRY."

It was in the midst of the debate above mentioned, that he exclaimed, "Cæsar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George the Third"—"Treason!" cried the speaker—"Treason, treason!" echoed from every part of the house. Henry faltered not for an instant; but taking a loftier attitude, and fixing on the

speaker an eye of fire, he finished his sentence with the firmest emphasis—"may profit by their example. If *this* be treason, make the most of it." From this period, Mr. Henry became the favorite of the people of Virginia; nor was his name confined to his native state. His influence was felt throughout the continent, and he was every where regarded as one of the great champions of colonial liberty. In the year 1769, he was admitted to the bar of the general court. He wanted that learning, whose place no genius can supply to the lawyer; and he wanted those habits of steady and persevering application, without which that learning is not to be acquired. But on questions before a jury, his knowledge of human nature, and the rapidity as well as justness of his inferences, from the flitting expressions of the countenance, as to what was passing in the hearts of his hearers, availed him fully. The defence of criminal cases was his great professional forte. The house of burgesses of Virginia, which had led the opposition to the stamp-act, kept their high ground during the whole of the ensuing contest. Mr. Henry having removed again from Louisa to his native county, in the year 1767 or 1768, continued a member of that house till the close of the revolution; and there could be no want of boldness in any body of which he was a member. He was one of the standing committee of correspondence and inquiry concerning the pretensions of the British, which was appointed by the house, March 12, 1773. He was also of the number of delegates sent by Virginia to the first general congress of the colonies, which assembled in Philadelphia, September 4, 1774. When the congress rose, he returned home, and entered the legislature of Virginia again, determined upon prosecuting the work of national independence. In this career, he became, by his zeal and efficiency, obnoxious to the royal governor, and to all who were disposed to maintain the royal cause, or who dreaded the resort to force.

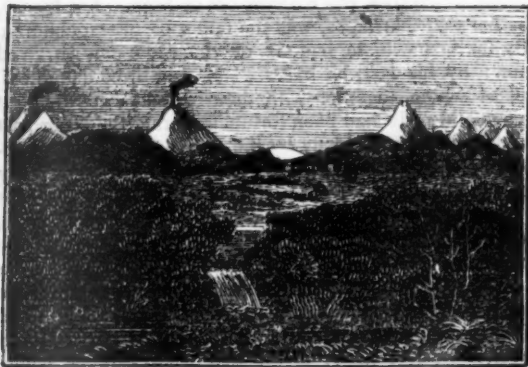
When intelligence was received of the battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, Henry summoned volunteers to meet him, in order to compel the governor of Virginia (lord Dunmore) to restore a quan-

tity of powder which the latter had caused to be taken from the public magazine at Williamsburg. This was the first military movement in Virginia. The governor issued a proclamation, calling upon the people to resist it; but Henry, at the head of a considerable corps, obliged his lordship to consent to the payment of a pecuniary compensation for the powder withdrawn. The volunteers returned in triumph to their homes. As soon, however, as all seemed again quiet, the governor sent forth, though without any effect, a violent manifesto against "a certain Patrick Henry, and a number of deluded followers," &c.

Henry took a leading part in all the subsequent measures which ended in the prostration of the royal authority, and the erection of an independent government in Virginia. The colonial convention of 1775 elected him the colonel of the first regiment, and the commander of "all the forces raised and to be raised for the defence of the colony." He soon resigned this command, from a belief that he could serve the cause of his country more effectually in the public councils than in the field. Immediately upon his resignation, he was elected a delegate to the convention, and, not long after, *the first governor of the commonwealth*—a post in which he proved signally serviceable, by sustaining the public spirit during the revolutionary struggle, providing recruits and supplies for the continental army, and crushing the intrigues of the tories who infested Virginia. His administration was prolonged by reelections until 1779, when he retired from the office, being no longer eligible without intermission, according to the constitution. As a member of the legislature, to which he at once returned, he continued to serve the great cause until the end of the war, when he was again elected governor of Virginia. The state of his affairs obliged him to resign the station in the autumn of 1786. In December of that year, he was appointed by the legislature one of the deputies to the convention, held at Philadelphia, for the purpose of revising the federal constitution. This appointment he declined, it being necessary for him to resume the practice of the law, in order to make some provision for his family. During the six following years, he regularly

attended the courts, and his great reputation obtained for him lucrative business. His next appearance in political life was as a member of the convention, which was to decide the fate of the federal constitution in Virginia. Some of the features of that instrument inspired him with fears for the liberties of the country. All his great powers of eloquence and his personal influence were exerted to procure the rejection of it. The amendments proposed by Virginia originated in the objections so vehemently and plausibly urged by him and his associates. He became, nevertheless, a convert to the excellence of the system. In the spring of 1791, he bade a final adieu to public life, and, in 1794, to the bar, at which he had gained some brilliant triumphs, which are commemorated by his distinguished biographer William Wirt. In 1796, the post of governor of the state was once more tendered to him and refused. In the following year, his health began to decline, and continued to sink gradually until the moment of his death, which took place on the 6th of June. Mr. Henry, by his two marriages, was the father of fifteen children. By his first wife, he had six, of whom two only survived him; by his last, he had six sons and three daughters, all of whom, together with their mother, were living at his death. He had been fortunate during the latter part of his life; and, chiefly by the means of judicious purchases of lands, left his family, large as it was, not only independent, but rich. In his habits of living he was remarkably temperate and frugal. He seldom drank any thing but water; and his table was furnished in the most simple manner. His morals were strict. As a husband, a father, a master, he had no superior. He was kind and hospitable to the stranger, and most friendly and accommodating to his neighbors. He was nearly six feet high; spare, and what may be called rawboned, with a slight stoop of the shoulders: his complexion was dark, sun-burnt, and sallow, without any appearance of blood in his cheeks; his countenance grave, thoughtful and penetrating, and strongly marked with the lineaments of deep reflection: the earnestness of his manner, united with an habitual contraction or knitting of his brows, and those lines of thought with

which his face was profusely furrowed, gave to his countenance, at some times, the appearance of severity. Henry was gifted with a strong and musical voice, and a most expressive countenance, and he acquired particular skill in the use of them. His style of speaking, to judge from the representations of his hearers, was altogether more successful than that of any of his contemporaries. He could be vehement, insinuating, humorous and sarcastic by turns, and always with the utmost effect. He was a natural orator, of the highest order, combining imagination, acuteness, dexterity and ingenuity, with the most forcible action and extraordinary powers of face and utterance. As a statesman, his principal merits were sagacity and boldness. His name is brilliantly and lastingly connected with the history of his country's emancipation.

CABINET OF NATURE.**THE MOUNTAINS OF THE ANDES.**

Among the wonders, or uncommon phenomena of the world, may be classed stupendous Mountains; and of these the Andes, in South America, are the loftiest, the most extensive, and, therefore, the most wonderful. Description of objects which are striking, because they are vast, often fail in exciting appropriate ideas; and

however accurate or poetical may be the accounts of this class of Nature's Prodigies, no just notions of their vastness can be conveyed by any written or graphical representation. The magnitude of an object must be seen to be duly conceived, and mountain-wonders will be best felt by those who have visited Wales, Scotland, Switzerland, or the mountainous regions of America or Asia.

The stupendous mountains called by the Spaniards the Cordilleras, (from cord, or chain, pronounced by them *Cor-dil-le'-ras*,) or Chains of the Andes, (An'-des,) stretch north and south, near the western coast, from the Isthmus of Darien, through the whole of the continent of South America, to the Straits of Magellan. In the north there are three chains of separate ridges, but in advancing from Popayan towards the south, the three chains unite into a single group, which is continued far beyond the equator. In the kingdom of Quito,* the more elevated summits of this group are ranged in two rows, which form a double crest to the Cordillera. The extent of the Andes Mountains is not less than four thousand three hundred miles.

"Rocks rich in gems, and mountains big with mines,
That on the high equator ridgy rise,
Whence many a bursting stream auriferous plays."

In this country the operations of nature appear to have been carried on on a large scale, and with a bolder hand, than elsewhere; and in consequence the whole is distinguished by a peculiar magnificence. Even the plain of Quito, which may be considered as the base of the Andes, is more elevated above the sea than the summits of many European mountains. In different places the Andes rise more than one third above the famous Peak of Teneriffe, the highest land in the ancient hemisphere. Their cloud-enveloped summits, though exposed to the rays of the sun in the torrid zone, are covered with eternal snows, and below them the storm is seen to burst, and the exploring traveller hears the thunder roll, and sees the lightnings dart beneath his feet.

* Pronounced Que-to, the *i* in all European languages being sounded as an *e*.

Throughout the whole of the range of these extensive mountains, as far as they have been explored, there is a certain boundary, above which the snow never melts, which boundary, in the torrid zone, has been ascertained to be 14,600 feet, or nearly three miles, above the level of the South Sea.

The ascent to the plain of Quito, on which stands Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, Pichincha, &c. is thus described by DON JUAN DE ULLOA:

"The ruggedness of the road from Taraguaga, leading up the mountain, is not easily described. The declivity is so great, in some parts, that the mules can scarcely keep their footing; and, in others, the acclivity is equally difficult. The trouble of sending people before to mend the road, the pain arising from the many falls and bruises, and the being constantly wet to the skin, might be supported; but these inconveniences are augmented by the sight of such frightful precipices, and deep abysses as excite constant terror. The road, in some places, is so steep, and yet so narrow, that the mules are obliged to slide down, without making any use whatever of their feet. On one side of the rider, in this situation, rises an eminence of many hundred yards; and, on the other, is an abyss of equal depth; so that, if he should give the least check to his mule, and destroy the equilibrium, both must inevitably perish.

"Having travelled nine days in this manner, slowly winding along the sides of the mountains, we began to find the whole country covered with a hoar-frost; and a hut, in which we reposed, had ice in it. At length, after a perilous journey of fifteen days, we arrived upon a plain, at the extremity of which stands the city of Quito, the capital of one of the most charming regions in the world. Here, in the centre of the torrid zone, the heat is not only very tolerable, but, in some places, the cold is even painful. Here the inhabitants enjoy the temperature and advantages of perpetual spring; the fields being constantly covered with verdure, and enamelled with flowers of the most lively colors. However, although this beautiful region is more elevated than any other country in the world, and it employs so many days of painful journey in the ascent, it is itself overlooked by

tremendous mountains; their sides being covered with snow, while their summits are flaming with volcanoes. These mountains seem piled one upon the other, and to rise with great boldness to an astonishing height. However, at a determined point above the surface of the sea, the congelation is found at the same height in all the mountains. Those parts which are not subject to a continual frost, have here and there growing upon them a species of rush, resembling the broom, but much softer and more flexible. Towards the extremity of the part where the rush grows, and the cold begins to increase, is found a vegetable with a round bulbous head. Higher still, the earth is bare of vegetation, and seems covered with eternal snow. The most remarkable of the Andes are the mountains of Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, and Pichincha."

ERUPTION OF MOUNT GALOUNGOUN.

In a foreign Journal we have met with a circumstantial description of the frightful and destructive eruption of a Volcano in Galoungoun, in the island of Java, on the 8th of October 1822. Mount Galoungoun is situated in the southern part of the chain of mountains which divides that district from Limbangan. At the foot of it is a valley surrounded by hills which is watered by two rivers, the Tji-Tandor, and the Tji-Woulan, which are formed by the union of a great number of streams which take their rise in the mountain. The country between these two rivers was one of the most fertile, pleasant and populous parts of the whole province. There is no tradition of any previous eruption in this mountain, but some months before this disaster, some remarkable appearances had been observed in the streams descending from it, such as an unusual agitation of the water, and a sulphurous or bituminous smell and taste.

Between one and two o'clock in the afternoon of Oct. 8, a violent explosion was heard from the side of the valley, and a thick column of black smoke was seen to rise from the foot of the Galoungoun, extending some distance up its side, and driven into the air with a terrific force. Soon the mountain was entirely enveloped in a

black cloud which darkened the whole country. The explosions were continually repeated with increased force which made the whole earth tremble. The mountain then threw out to a prodigious height enormous bodies of flaming lava,* mixed with burning sulphur. These burning masses were thrown beyond the river Tji-Tandor which is more than ten leagues from the mountain. The river, obstructed with these enormous masses of burning lava, were transformed into boiling streams, the overflowing of which arrested at every step the wretched fugitives, and doomed them to a painful and cruel death, in the midst of rivers of liquid fire, or of boiling water. The rivers above named, and the Tji-Losse, and the Tji-Konnir floated down in great numbers the bodies of men and animals, and the inhabitants of the lower districts saw whole houses, with their tenants still living, floating down these swollen and heated streams, without the possibility of giving them relief. The clouds which enveloped the mountain were illuminated from time to time by the most vivid flashes of lightning, accompanied with a deafening roar of thunder, by which many inhabitants of the forest, beyond the reach of the eruption, were killed. At 3 o'clock the eruption had attained its greatest degree of violence. At that time there fell a shower of cool lava, mingled with ashes, which destroyed all the plantations within a circuit of more than twenty-five leagues. Nearer the water a redish sand obscured the air, and covered the fields. About 4 o'clock the explosions became less violent, and at 5, there reigned a death-like silence, the air gradually cleared up, and the mountain became visible. A more dreadful scene of devastation was never witnessed. For a distance of six leagues from the water, where, a few hours before were flourishing villages and a happy population, not a house, a plantation, a forest, or a living being was to be seen, but the whole had been buried under a boiling mass, which had now become of a blueish color, but which retained its heat for a long time after. Farther

* We translate this *lava* for want of a more appropriate term, though said not to have been lava, properly so called, and in this respect the eruption was different from most volcanic phenomena, heretofore known.

from the seat of the volcano the scene was still more dreadful. There were to be seen the lifeless and half consumed bodies of men, women and children, who had escaped wounded from the burning flood, or had been intercepted in their flight, and the still living who were seeking in vain for an asylum amidst the general destruction. On the 9th, 10th and 11th it rained without interruption, and the wretched inhabitants who had fled from their houses, were left without shelter, and were intercepted in their flight by the overflowing of the rivers, and the destruction of all the bridges.

In the evening of the 12th, there was a new eruption, very violent, and accompanied by two violent shocks of an earthquake. This was accompanied by neither fire nor lightning, to interrupt the deep darkness which settled over the terrified inhabitants. On the morning of the 13th, it was observed that the summits of Mount Galoungoun were changed. The tops were broken off, and the side from the border of the valley presented an immense crater, opened in the form of a semicircle, and formed a frightful gulf. New hills were formed, and the courses of several rivers were entirely changed.

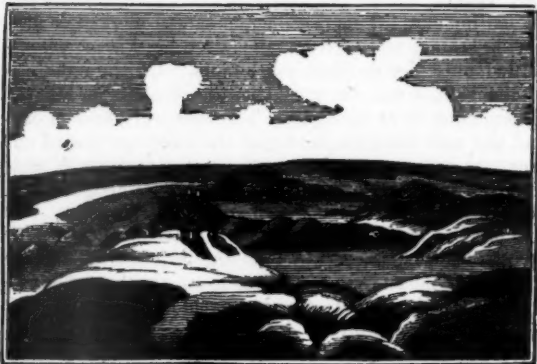
The President of the province, as soon as he heard of these disasters, repaired to the neighborhood, and took every measure in his power to succor the sufferers. It was found, on a thorough official inquiry, that 114 villages were destroyed, 4011 persons perished, many were severely wounded, many horses, cows and oxen were destroyed, many rice and coffee plantations were ruined, and others greatly damaged, 41 canals for irrigated rice plantations were destroyed, and 46 were damaged, 775,795 coffee trees were destroyed, and 3,851,742 were either destroyed or damaged.

VIEW OF THE SUPPOSED SITE OF BABYLON.

Babylon is described by Herodotus, as enclosing within its walls, a space of fifteen square miles.* The walls he states as eighty-seven feet thick, and three hundred and fifty feet high. Sir Robert Ker Porter, to whom we are indebted for the annexed view of the supposed

* See Monthly Repository, vol 2, p 53.

site of this famous city, and of the river Euphrates, thinks, that Babylon was so far from being exactly divided by the river, that its greatest extent lay to the west. He says, from the situation of Birs Nimrood, on the western plain, and the chain of building-remains, intersected by patches of verdure, which connect the bank of the river from beyond Anana, with that extraordinary pile, the sketch of the city that way seems fully equal to the prescribed bounds; and wherever the old Tower of Babel could be traced, there we should doubtless look for the most ancient portion of the city; that which had comprised the capital, until Nebuchadnezzar, despising



the palace of his ancestors, and "the boundaries of their habitations," erected a vaster and more magnificent structure on the opposite bank of the river, and spread the walls of the city yet further towards the rising sun. The eastern bank, certainly, has preserved more remains than the west, but if the Kasr, or palace, &c. are really the ruins of the new palace, and its citadel, then we have the natural solution; wherever the court was, there would the population draw, till the opposite side be comparatively deserted. The aggrandizement of the temple of Belus in that quarter, by the same monarch, who had given a rival to its ancient palace, would, in some measure, act as a counterpoise. But, when Cyrus, for his own immediate object, so effectively stopped the course

of the river, the consequences of the haste with which it was done, are said to have broken down certain defensive dykes to the west of the city, and hence those parts ever afterwards became a marsh. No person can doubt, that all who could, would withdraw from such unwholesome quarters, and when the temple was sacked by Xerxes, then we may suppose that the inhabitants would emigrate to the other shore.

With regard to Babylon, in its greatest dimensions, I have described it rather as an embattled district, than a merely fortified town. Cyrus, it is said, demolished the whole of the outer wall, soon after he had possessed himself of the empire; probably when he removed the seat of government to Susa. A necessary precaution, in case of revolt; so vast an embattled area, by its own agricultural produce, having afforded the last Babylonian monarch the means of withstanding him two years, and might have done so for twenty more, had not Cyrus surprised the city by stratagem. Darius Hystaspes, not satisfied with his predecessor's compression of Babylon, to its second line of defence, in less than fifty years afterwards, took away its gates, and lowered the wall to fifty cubits. In that state, most probably, Alexander found it, when, according to Diodorus, he battered down ten stadia at once, to raise a funeral pile for his favorite Hæphæstion.

The first opening in the stupendous ruin of Babylon, through which the population flowed, "as the letting out of waters," was the establishment of a new city on the banks of the Tigris, by Seleucus Nicanor, B. C. 312, which he erected out of the fragments of the old, and named after himself. It became the seat of government, and in consequence, the people of the ancient capital transplanted themselves thither in crowds, for the sake of employment and subsistence. Strabo gives a lively picture of the natural effect of these causes; describing the increase of Seleucia under its successive Greek princes, and the corresponding mouldering away of Babylon, and its inhabitants, "*till*," he remarks, "*for the most part it became a desert*." And to which state he applies the words of a poet, who, speaking of a fallen Arcadian city, exclaims, "*Est magna solitudo nunc Mega-*

topolis." The city of Megalopolis is now a great solitude! The last great sweep of its materials was on the building of Ctesiphon, by the Arsacidæ, or Parthian kings; and then, of the few desolate natives, who had remained amongst the ruins of their homes, most followed their razed foundations, to augment the population of another new city. Though a remembrance of the once proud Babylon clung to her naked bosom; yet the words of Scripture must be fulfilled. "Thou that madest the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof."—"For I will rise up against them, saith the Lord of Hosts, and cut off from Babylon, the name and remnant, and son and nephew, saith the Lord. I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the Lord of Hosts." (Isaiah xiv. 17. 22, 23.)

I have mentioned, continues Sir R. K. Porter, that a *remnant* was left there; but the plague blasted them in their wretchedness; and then, indeed, all became a silent mass of ruin. The weather, from the time of my first arrival, had been particularly fine, with only one or two interruptions of heavy but brief showers; which, when they fell, only deepened the awful character of the scene; pouring their torrents down the furrowed cheeks of the ruined piles of Babylon, and sweeping like a black curtain over the Euphrates, (which is so remarkable in the above sketch,) between its eastern and western shores.

INTERESTING AND USEFUL EXTRACTS.

SPRING.

The season of ethereal mildness—when the wide, deep heavens purify themselves and shake out the contractions and wrinkles of winter! It has come to us as in times past unchanged! God has not forgotten to be gracious and faithful. And the earth obedient to the heavenly signs above, arrays her late cold bosom with green—and has placed that green only as a dark background to her more beauteous embroidery of flowers which ere long shall intermingle with and surmount the parent tint, and white and red and orange and green and violet shall be found in the fragrant coverings of the

meadows and the hills. The birds know the season of love and of song. They are out in the earliest blush of the morning. Their songs now sound with, and shape, all nature's melody to an anthem of harmony, varied and measured with more than mortal skill. It is the many-tongued song of creation which I hear rising up to the great Creator. Receive this bursting volume of praise, Oh thou magnificent Creator and Preserver, from the green earth thou hast borne safely through the tossing winter clouds, like a strong ship brought from the stormy cape into the spicy Indian ocean!

Man, whose capacious heart and searching intellect can take in and comprehend this universal song of homage and rejoicing, should not be a frozen statue amidst the adoring works of God. Let every heart be warm and overflowing with praise.—For no living creature in the air, in the fields, in the forest or the floods, has half the cause of thanksgiving that human beings have. All nature seems to smile for man, and pours out into his hand the fulness of her vernal offerings. The fields are green and lovely to his eye—the grass blooms afresh over the graves of his ancestors—the summer harvests, the fruits of autumn are before him—the blessings of friendship are around him—and still, after this earthly scene hath shifted, another scene incomparably more grand and beautiful spreads out and stretches interminably before him. It is the Spring of a blessed immortality.

The time hastens that religion shall fill the earth with a heavenly influence more bland and balmy than that of Spring. War, like the storms of winter, shall be no more. The tales of hoary wrong and error shall be rehearsed at the fireside as things that have been—not as those now in existence. Death shall come calmly then, and have no sting. The sweet earth shall then invite Jesus to his second coming—and the Saviour shall hear the voice.

THE POWER OF MEMORY.

Seneca says he could in his youth repeat a thousand names in the same order as they were read to him.—Themistocles made himself master of the Persian lan-

guage in a year's time. Mithridates understood as many languages as he commanded nations, that is, no less than twenty-two. Cyrus retained the name of every soldier in his army. Tully says of Julius Cæsar, in his oration for Ligarius, that he never forgot any thing but an injury. A girl at a Sabbath evening school in the north, repeated the 119th Psalm in prose without a mistake. A blind man who lived in the town of Sterling could repeat the whole Bible, which he acquired by hearing children reading at school. He used to say, that if he heard any thing read twice he never forgot it. But, though he could repeat the Bible, he seemed very ignorant of its great truths, and not aware of their value. Mr. Wesley remarks, "Thomas Walsh was so thoroughly acquainted with the Bible, if he was questioned concerning any Hebrew word in the Old, or any Greek word in the New Testament, he would tell, after a little pause, not only how often one or the other occurred in the Bible, but also what it meant in every place."

ALL FOR THE BEST.

As all the rivers upon the face of the globe, however circuitous they may be in their progress, and however opposite in their course, yet meet at last in the ocean, and there contribute to increase the mass of waters : so all the seemingly discordant events in the life of a good man are made to preserve, upon the whole, an unerring tendency to his good, and to concur and conspire for promoting it at the last."

GENERAL ASPECT OF PALESTINE.

The hills still stand round about Jerusalem as they stood in the days of David and Solomon.—The dew falls on Hermon, the cedars grow on Libanus and Kishon, that ancient river, draws its stream from Tabor as in the times of old. The sea of Galilee still presents the same natural accompaniments, the fig-tree springs up by the way side, the sycamore spreads its branches, and the vines and olives still climb the sides of the mountains. The desolation which covered the cities of the Plain, is not less striking at the present hour than when Moses with an inspired pen, recorded the judgment of God ;

the swellings of Jordan are not less regular in their rise than when the Hebrews first approached its banks ; and he who goes down from Jerusalem to Jericho still incurs the greatest hazard of falling among thieves. There is in fact, in the scenery and manners of Palestine, a perpetuity that accords well with the everlasting imports of its historical records, and which enables us to identify with the utmost readiness the local imagery of every great transaction.

MAGNANIMITY.

Cæsar has had the testimony of ages to his bravery, and yet he refused a challenge from Anthony. He very calmly answered the bearer of the message—"If Anthony is weary of his life, tell him there are other ways to death, besides the point of my sword." How well would it be, if there were more instances of the like independence of mind.

DEATH.

It is doubtless hard to die ; but it is agreeable to hope we shall not live here for ever, and that a better life will put an end to the troubles of this.—If we were offered immortality on earth, who is there would accept so melancholy a gift ? What resource, what hope, what consolation would then be left us against the rigour of fortune, and the injustice of man ?

THOUGHTS.

How one powerful passion, indulged without restraint, may lay waste the finest qualities of the soul, and changing from the most generous, to the most selfish of human affections, cease to deserve any other tribute, than christian compassion for its afflictive excess.

GUILT.

Guilt is generally afraid of light ; it considers darkness as a natural shelter, and makes night the confidant of those actions, which cannot be trusted to the tell-tale day

The two most engaging powers of an author are, to make *new* things *familiar*, and *familiar* things *new*.

POETRY.

THE DWELLING OF MY CHOICE.

BY S. F. SMITH.

Where gorgeous clouds usher the morning's first ray,
And brightness and beauty repose all the day;
Their gladness the birds in sweet warbled notes tell,
And skip in the greenness that smiles where they dwell;
Where gales in the evening, like Arabics breathe,
And peace spreads its mantle around and beneath;
Where all things the traces of loveliness wear,
My dwelling for life,—let it ever be there.

Where flows the still river away to the sea;
Where bands of swift insects hum, happy and free,
Or far, where the ocean, with deafening roar,
Swells under and round me, behind and before,
Where, dashing and foaming, it never has peace,
And tossing of billows and waves never cease—
Where grandeur and might all their wonders prepare—
Let the scene be sublime—then, my dwelling be there.

Where melody pours its harmonious swell,
And spreads o'er the soul its mysterious spell;
The chanting of thousands at vespers or morn—
The plaint of the mourner—the hunter's shrill horn—
The voice of the flute—or the village church bell—
O! be it but music—and there I will dwell.

Where storms never rustle and winds never blow—
Beyond where the stars in their brilliancy glow—
Where millions of suns in their majesty burn,
And blaze on the eyes from each point where they turn;
Where seraphs and angels and sainted ones be,—
The loved ones on earth I shall never more see—
Where bliss flows in richness that man cannot tell—
And God shines in glory—O there let me dwell!

LINES

Written on seeing a young female friend, for the first time, approach the Communion Table.

Go forth, thou lovely one, and take
Thy seat with those who now are met
The bread of holy love to break,
And mingle joy with fond regret;
And they are met the cup to drink,
That Jesus blessed for such as thee,
And of his last request to think,
"Do this in memory of me."

Go forth, and in thy joyous days
 Let all thy thoughts to God be given;
 Go, join the song of holy praise,
 That echoes now from earth to heav'n;
 Go, in thy youth yield up thy soul
 To Him, who for thy sins hath bled,
 And let Religion's soft control
 Around thy heart its blessings shed.

Go forth, and wipe the tears away
 That now are trembling in thine eye,
 Thou should'st not weep on such a day,
 But thou should'st smile like yonder sky;
 For such a day as this should make
 All earth with songs of gladness ring,
 Then why should'st thou, lov'd one awake
 Within thy heart such sorrowing!

Go forth and take thy seat—for thou
 High heaven hath chosen for its own;
 Go then and offer up thy vow,
 To worship God, and God alone;
 Go forth, resolving every hour
 In holiness and love to live,
 Looking above for strength and power,
 The strength alone that God can give.

Thou art gone—the uncreated light
 Of heaven is shining round thy brow;
 And now the crown of glory bright
 Is thine, for thou hast sealed thy vow;
 And angels now around the throne
 Of God their glad hosannas sing,
 The holy vow to heaven hath flown
 On the recording angel's wing.

THE REST OF THE RANSOMED.

O is there a land, where the loved ones ne'er sever,
 Far off, in some region, where joys live for ever?
 Where pleasure and friendship and peace never ceasing,
 And knowledge and wisdom and worth are increasing?

O is there a land, where the storms never lower?
 Where sorrows and sickness and death have no power?
 Where anguish and darkness and doubt, are excluded,
 Corrupters and spoilers, the impure and deluded?

O is there a land, where the pure gushing fountains
 Pour forth their clear streams from the hills and the mountains?
 Winding through the green groves and the fair sunny bowers,
 Delightfully sweet, with the perfume of flowers?

O is there a land of such exquisite splendor
The moon and the sun-beams no brightness can render?
Where shining ones bow 'mid the glory that's pouring
From God and the Lamb they're with rapture adoring?

There is such a land, 'tis the *Pearl* of creation,
Far off in bright regions it holds its high station,
'Tis the hope of the Pilgrim when fainting he dies,
'Tis the rest of the Ransomed—his home in the skies.

THE LAND OF OUR BIRTH.

There is not a spot in this wide peopled earth
So dear to the heart as the land of our birth;
'Tis the home of our childhood! the beautiful spot
Which mem'ry retains when all else is forgot.

May the blessings of God

Ever hallow the sod,

And its valleys and hills by our children be trod.

Can the language of strangers in accents unknown,
Send a thrill to our bosom like that of our own?
The face may be fair, and the smile may be bland,
But it breathes not the tones of our dear native land!

There's no spot on earth

Like the land of our birth,

Where heroes keep guard o'er the altar and hearth!

How sweet is the language which taught us to blend
The dear name of parent, of husband and friend;
Which taught us to lisp on our mother's soft breast,
The ballads she sung as she rock'd us to rest.

May the blessings of God

Ever hallow the sod,

And its valleys and hills by our children be trod!

TO A FOUNTAIN.

Sweet Fountain, in thy cool and glassy bed

The forms of things around reflected lie

With all the brightness of reality,

And all the softness which thy wave can shed—

As clear as if within thy depths were laid

Some brighter world beneath that pictured sky;

But with a thought the vision passes by

Before the rising breeze, and all is fled.

So on the stream of life, all bright and gay,

A thousand pleasures glitter to the view,

Which hope enlightens with her fairest ray,

And Fancy colors with her richest hue;

But with the breath of Truth they pass away

Like thine, sweet fountain—fair, but fleeting too.

